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## U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND

**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND RWANDA RELIEF OPERATION UNDERWAY**

(STUTTGART, GE) At the direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. European Command, General George A. Joulwan, USA, is expanding U.S. military humanitarian relief operations for Rwanda. The intent is to establish quickly a comprehensive command and control architecture in Saire which ties together existing agencies and allows the rapid expansion of necessary facilities to provide water, food, shelter and health care.

To that end, a Joint Task Force, led by Brigadier General Jack P. Nix, Jr., U.S. Army, is being established today, July 22, at the U.S. European Command to develop a plan of action to support the massive international relief operation. The European Command's initial assessment team is in Goma today and a larger team will depart for Goma today (22 July) to begin their immediate evaluation of humanitarian assistance requirements and to plan for follow-on operations. This group will link-up with French military forces and relief agencies.

In noting that U.S. military forces would operate in support of the French, the United Nations, and other relief organizations, General Joulwan emphasized the importance of accelerating U.S. assistance. "Our action to save lives in the short term will be the decisive element in the success of this undertaking," he said. "Success will be measured in how many lives are saved today, tomorrow and the next day; we must move rapidly to do so."

The following immediate actions have been directed:

- o U.S. military water purification equipment in the European area of operations is being staged at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, for movement to the region.

(MORE)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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o Three U.S. Air Force C-141 aircraft are being scheduled to transport water purification and distribution equipment from Germany to Goma as soon as air transportation can be arranged.

o To meet UNHCR's most critical need, cargo handling equipment at Goma, six 10-ton all terrain forklifts are being shipped from Rhein-Main to Goma.

o On July 22, a U.S. Navy P-3C patrol aircraft will deploy to the region to conduct aerial surveillance of the area. The data provided by this aircraft will give planners a better understanding of terrain features, the condition and availability of support infrastructure, identify potential sites for ground relief operations, and provide detailed information on the geographic dispersion of the refugees.

o In airlift operations, a chartered DC-8 aircraft will move the first load of rice and cooking oil currently located at Nairobi, Kenya to Goma, Zaire on July 23. The schedule calls for two flights a day beginning July 24. A total of 1293 metric tons of rice and 150 metric tons of cooking oil are scheduled to be moved in about 40 flights.

o Three U.S. Air Force C-5A aircraft departed Europe July 21 carrying medical supplies and vehicles for use in the relief effort. Two of the three aircraft departed Copenhagen, Denmark and are at Nairobi, Kenya with vehicles and medical supplies for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Another C-5A Galaxy has arrived in Nairobi with supplies picked up in Amsterdam, Netherlands, also for the ICRC. All of the cargo will be used to support Rwanda relief efforts. A third C-5A mission from Copenhagen to Nairobi is scheduled for July 24.

o The U.S. European Command is also evaluating the feasibility of the airdrop of emergency relief supplies.

o An operations officer from the U.S. European Command is already serving with the multi-national air operations cell based at UNHCR's Geneva headquarters in Switzerland. This cell has assumed responsibility for directing the flow of aircraft flying to and from the Goma airport. A second U.S. European Command officer will join this organization Friday, July 22.